

## CLAIMS

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1     1.    A method of coding image data including the  
2       steps of  
3            testing for coefficient values requiring more  
4       than eight bits to be uniquely coded, and  
5            using a flag in at least one block of data to  
6       indicate if all said coefficient values in said  
7       block are coded in eight bits or fewer or if any  
8       requires more than eight bits to be uniquely coded.
- 1     2.    A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
2       coefficient values are DCT coefficients.
- 1     3.    A method as recited in claim 2 wherein said DCT  
2       coefficients are AC DCT coefficients.
- 1     4.    A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said  
2       testing step is performed once per image.
- 1     5.    A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said  
2       testing step is performed once per block.
- 1     6.    A method as recited in claim 1 including the  
2       further set of using another flag in a block of data  
3       to indicate if any ZRLs are present.

- 1       7.    A data format including  
2            a first pair of bytes representing a block  
3    number, a Klast value and at least one flag  
4    indicating if all said coefficient values in said  
5    block are coded in eight bits or fewer or if any  
6    requires more than eight bits to be uniquely coded,  
7            a second pair of bytes respectively  
8    representing an R/S value and a coefficient value.
- 1       8.    A data format as recited in claim 7, further  
2    including  
3            at least one additional pair of bytes including  
4    a EOB byte and a padding byte.
- 1       9.    A data format as recited in claim 7, wherein  
2    said first pair of bytes further includes  
3            another flag indicating if any runs of  
4    consecutive zero-valued coefficients greater than  
5    sixteen are present in said block.